

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 17, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Honorable Mark Esper  
Secretary of Defense  
U.S. Department of Defense

The Honorable Rick Perry  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy

The Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

The Honorable David Bernhardt  
Secretary of Interior  
U.S. Department of Interior

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury

The Honorable William Barr  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice

The Honorable Gina Haspel  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce

The Honorable Betsy DeVos  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education

The Honorable Alex Azar  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Department of Health and  
Human Services

The Honorable Ben Carson  
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development  
U.S. Department of Housing and  
Urban Development

The Honorable Eugene Scalia  
Secretary of Labor  
U.S. Department of Labor

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation

The Honorable Robert Wilkie  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The Honorable Joseph Maguire  
Acting Director of National Intelligence  
Office of the Director of National  
Intelligence

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer  
U.S. Trade Representative

Mr. Chris Pilkerton  
Acting Administrator  
U.S. Small Business Administration

Dear Members of the Cabinet:

Last week, we wrote to you regarding multiple, credible allegations of wrongdoing on the part of administration officials, including the President of the United States. It is critical to the proper functioning of our government that these allegations be fully investigated and that all responsible parties be held accountable.

As former attorneys general and current members of the United States Senate, we asked you to answer questions about your efforts to protect whistleblowers and safeguard the independence of inspector general investigations. Your timely response to our questions is critical to safeguarding the integrity of investigations into alleged wrongdoing by government officials and to restoring Americans' faith in their government. We are therefore dismayed that you have yet to respond with the information requested by the deadline of October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Again, we urge you to take the following immediate steps to ensure your departments' full compliance with the current or future investigations conducted by Congressional oversight committees and inspectors general:

1. Order all department personnel to identify, preserve and collect records related to on-going investigations. This must include the recovery and preservation of all relevant communications on personal devices by government officials.
2. Provide all information and documents within your respective department in relation to any operation or investigation over which Congress or the respective inspector general has responsibility, unless explicitly prohibited by law.
3. Report any effort within your department or the White House to interfere with, intimidate, or otherwise obstruct an investigation by the relevant inspector general or Congress.

Additionally, we again ask that you answer the following questions:

1. The Department of Defense ordered its staff to assist with "identifying, preserving, and collecting documents and other records" related to said investigations. Have you or your departments issued similar directives? If not, why?
2. What efforts have been made to obtain relevant communications that took place on personal devices? If none, why?
3. Has the president or anyone at the White House ever made a request or suggestion, whether implied or explicit, that you or other department personnel ignore or fail to comply with any inspector general request, audit, review or investigation?

4. Has the president or anyone at the White House ever made a request or suggestion, whether implied or explicit, that you or other department personnel interfere with the transmission to Congress of materials related to an inspector general audit, investigation or any other work product?

The recent allegations of wrongdoing raise serious concerns about the integrity of our government and demand your prompt action. We therefore request your response by Monday, October 21, 2019.

Sincerely,



Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator